Observation of C&AG on HIV infected patients

1856. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed a recent observation of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India highlighting *inter alia* that a large number of HIV infected patients are not being revealed the actual status of their disease which could lead to such persons unknowingly spreading the disease among the un-infected persons and the NACO has failed to discharge its due obligations in this regard; and

(b) if so, the details of steps being taken for proper implmentation of the HIV/AIDS control programme for timely prevention and treatment of the disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) HIV testing is being done at voluntary counselling and testing centers and for Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission located at antenatal clinics established in identified hospitals. Testing is done on voluntary basis after pre test counselling and consent of the person is taken before testing. The person is called in between 1 to 7 days period to collect the report which is given after post test counselling for both HIV positive and HIV negative persons. If the HIV positive person do not come to collect the report, the report is not sent to the patient as the test is done at the district hospital and medical colleges. Moreover, confidentiality of the test result has to be maintained. Some hospital counsellor do write to the positive person to report to the hospital without revealing the report in the letter. For research purposes including surveillance, the testing is being done on unlinked and anonymous basis in order to minimise participation and selection bias in sampling. Detailed guidelines on Voluntary Counseling and Testing and National Blood Policy have been formulated and distributed for implementation under the programme.